

CHANGE OVER TIME THEME COMPARISON BY REGION: LABOR SYSTEMS

REGIONS	Ancient To 1200 BCE	Classical To 600 CE	Post-Classical 600 – 1450 CE	Early Modern 1450 – 1750 CE	Modern 1750 – 1914 CE	Contemporary 1914 - Present
SOUTHWEST ASIA	Peasants, herders; domestic, field slaves; commercial, urban labor; professionals;	Strong continuity; Change: trade often controlled by ethnic trade diasporas; foreign professionals	Strong continuity; Change: state professional classes; rise of urban proletariat, strong urban commercial	Strong continuity; Change: foreign merchants, minority control commerce; peasants increasingly indentured	Strong continuity; Change: rise of farmers, some labor in factories; ; colonial elite professionals	Change: farmers more common, more native commercial, professional, factory labor, unions
CENTRAL ASIA	Subsistence agriculture along rivers; mostly herding, hunting, gathering	Strong continuity; Change – along rivers: rise of peasant farmers, urban commercial, professional elites, labor	Strong Continuity; Change: foreign merchants control commerce; SW Asian Muslim themes	Strong continuity	Strong continuity; Change – colonial control introduces East European norms; herding is commercial	Change – introduction of Soviet agriculture, factory labor system, managers, state professionals
EAST ASIA	Peasants, domestic slaves; Professional state elites urban commercial class is mostly artisan, laborers; merchants rare	Strong continuity; Change: state professionals, urban commercial classes including merchants	Strong continuity; Change: sharecroppers, indentured labor; urban proletariat; many foreign merchants	Strong continuity; Change – commercial, industrial guilds in Japan	Strong continuity in China; Change in Japan – rise of factories labor, service, managers, farmers;	Change: Japan. S. Korea western in model; China, Communist style collective agriculture, factory labor managers
SOUTH ASIA	Peasants, domestic slaves; urban commercial	Caste labor (jatis) dominates labor system in all aspects	Continuity in Hindu areas except more jatis; change in Muslim areas – similar to SW Asia	Strong continuity; foreign commercial, industrial, and professional classes due to colonialism	Strong continuity; change – natives professionals, commercial, some factory labor on western model	Caste system undermined; small farmers, commercial & factory labor, unions, professional, managerial
NORTH AFRICA	Region – herding, farming is subsistence; in Egypt mostly peasants; commercial, state professionals; domestic, field slaves	Changes: serfdom spreads; slavery increases; foreign merchants control trade, commerce, industry;	Strong continuity: serfdom; change – introduction of SW Asian (Muslim) system	Continuity strong; Change: foreign merchants, minority control commerce	Continuity strong until 19 th century: colonialism brings western commercial, elite, some factory labor	Change: farmers more common, more native commercial, professional, factory labor, managers
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	Subsistence farming, herding, hunting, gathering; artisans local; domestic, agricultural slaves	Strong continuity: change: rise of urban commercial classes, merchants often foreigners; artisan guilds	Strong continuity: Change – introduction of Muslim professional, commercial classes	Strong continuity; Change – slave trade forces women into male roles, labor areas	Change: agriculture export oriented, slave trade disrupt patterns; migratory labor; rise of native commercial, state professional classes	Continuity: migratory labor Change: small, subsistence farms; factory labor, state professional, commercial classes; managers; unions;
SOUTHEAST ASIA	Small subsistence farmers; work equally shared by men, women; slavery exists	Continuity: men, women working together; Change: collective agriculture; some commercial classes; state professional classes	Strong continuity	Change: rise of plantation agriculture, labor system; foreign elites control system; foreign state professionals	Strong continuity; Change – colonialism brings western commercial, elite, some factory workers; some native state professionals	Change – rise of native state, urban professional, factory workers, commercial classes; unions; Continuity -
WESTERN EUROPE	Subsistence agriculture, hunting, gathering; domestic slaves; commercial classes	Change: peasants; domestic, field slavery; plantations; urban commercial classes; urban proletariat; state professional classes	Continuity: peasants, serfs; Change – urban middle class commercial, clergy as state professionals, proletariat; guilds, wage labor,	Change: Serfdom declines, increased peasants, farmers; state, urban professionals, commercial, putting out system; commercial herding	Change: farmers; urban & state professionals; factory workers; unions; women workers	Change: welfare economy; professional, service classes replace factories, farmers; women in influential roles
EASTERN EUROPE	Subsistence agriculture, hunting, gathering; few commercial elements; foreign merchants	Continuity: Mediterranean similar to Western Europe; Change: farming increases	Change: peasants, farmers; ethnic minorities control urban commerce, labor; state professionals	Continuity: professional, urban labor; Change: serfs. plantation agriculture; commercial herding, few urban proletariat	Continuity: ethnic control of proletariat, commerce;; Change – end of serfdom; rise of factory labor, peasants;	Change: Communist style collectivized agriculture, factory labor; service industry; managers as state professionals
ANGLO NORTH AMERICA	Subsistence agriculture, hunting, gathering;	Continuity: most of region remain unchanged; Change – spread of farming, some commercial labor	Continuity: most of region remain unchanged; Change – spread of farming, some commercial labor	Change: Western European models introduced without serfdom; plantation labor, slavery; urban commercial Commercial herding	Change: Western models spread throughout region; urban & state professionals, factory; unions	Change: welfare economy; professional, service classes replace factories, farmers; Women in influential roles
LATIN AMERICA	Subsistence agriculture, hunting, gathering;	Change: peasants, serfs; rise of urban commercial, state professional classes; caste labor; domestic slavery;	Strong Continuity	Change: plantations, serfs, urban commercial, state professionals; commercial herding; Continuity: native labor, caste labor	Continuity: native, caste labor; Change: introduction of wage labor, indentured labor, share cropping; some urban factory labor	Change: increasingly follows western labor model with commercial, professional, service, factory labor; migratory, women labor

DEFINITIONS

Agricultural Labor

1. **Subsistence farming:** low technology, primitive, all able people work
2. **Peasants:** small, free agricultural labor, primitive, all able people work; herders is the same but they raise animals
3. **Farmers:** commercial agriculture of their own land using paid seasonal labor, technology*
4. **Caste labor:** work decided by birth into caste – in India, sudra are share croppers, tenant farmers, paid day laborers*
5. **Serfs:** agricultural labor bound to land with duties to an aristocrat, cannot leave labor without permission; but right to work, eat*
6. **Field slaves:** agricultural slaves*
7. **Plantations:** slaves, serfs producing commodities for export including grain, sugar, cotton, tobacco, coffee, cattle *
8. **Sharecroppers:** agricultural workers who work someone else's land and receive a portion of the produce; they do not own land *
9. **Tenant farmers:** agricultural workers who buy right to farm land from another owner*
10. **Migratory labor:** paid wage labor moving seasonally to pick agriculture*
11. **Collective agriculture:** state, society, tribe owns land, land worked by all members*
12. **Commercial Ranching:** herding with intent to export animal products; profit oriented, technology; wage labor

Urban Commercial Labor

1. **Artisans:** hand make artifacts to sell
2. **Merchants:** Buy and sell commodities
3. **Guild labor** regulates urban wages, prices of commodities*
4. **Managerial Classes (after 1450)** specialists in financial, organization
5. **Service Labor:** Wage earning labor servicing the needs of other portions of the population; no product made, a service sold

Industrial Labor

1. **Proletariat:** early urban day laborers, paid wage earners*
2. **Putting Out and Cottage Industry:** Way around guilds – industrial labor done at home, people work on one part of finished product*
3. **Factory labor:** workers involved in centralized, mechanized labor, paid wages
4. **Unions:** worker organizations argue for workers rights, protections
5. **Migratory labor:** paid wage labor moving seasonally to work in service, industrial jobs*

Professional Classes

1. **Aristocracy**
2. **State professionals:** bureaucrats, military, diplomats – educated, trained for profession; includes university graduates
3. **Managerial Classes:** specialists in technologically advanced work
4. **Clergy**

* Until Modern and Contemporary periods, almost all labor was not free to a greater or lesser degree.